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MILITARY

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From Moscow

INTERNAL

1. Man of Space:

The fact that a Russian was the first man to make a successful space flight is unquestionably proudly viewed by the Soviet people. The regime lost no time in seeking to exploit this positive reaction to Gagarin's flight not only to induce pride in the USSR and confidence in the Soviet system, but also to inspire greater production efforts to achieve the seven-year plan goals. From the time of the initial announcement, Soviet press, radio, and TV has focussed almost exclusively on the achievement and sought to guide the Soviet people in understanding the wider significance of the event. Soviet media has emphasized that the opening of cosmic era, is part and parcel of the process toward the glorious future of communism which began with the 1917 Revolution and demonstrates superiority of Soviet man and system. This message was conveyed particularly by an all day and half night television marathon on Wednesday, which replaced previously scheduled programs and featured enthusiastic approval by all layers of Soviet population with appropriate commentary by scientists, commemorative poetry readings, songs for the occasion, recitals by school children and youth and live or filmed testimonials.

The propaganda image projected by the regime of a rejoicing population thronging the streets did not fit the observations by Embassy officers. Soviet people are unlikely to engage in demonstrations without direction from above, and Moscow's population showed no particular signs of spontaneous elation on Wednesday. Several mid-day "demonstrations" by youth groups in the city's central area appeared organized to varying degree, but their total number of several hundreds was barely enough to provide material for carefully angled "crowd" TV and press photos. Aside from this and some group interest in store radio transmissions and portable television showings on sidewalk facing Red Square, the city's dwellers seemed to be following usual pursuits with normal numbers on streets.

Plans to bring Gagarin to Moscow for a triumphal welcome will provide the occasion for an enormous mass demonstration.

2. Leadership. Six of the Moscow resident members of the Presidium reportedly were active with protocol events during the first three days of the week. A. N. Kosygin and D. S. Polyanskiy attended the ceremonial signing of the Chicom-Soviet trade agreement on Apr. 7 after jointly representing the USSR at the Finnish Embassy's commemoration of the 13th anniversary of the Soviet-Finnish treaty of Friendship and Mutual Aid the previous day. During the visit of Afghan Prime Minister Daud (illustrative of the "democratic" face Moscow turns towards prominent "uncommitted visitors") CPSU CC Secretary and Presidium member N. A. Mukhitdinov was referred to in press accounts by his additional title: "Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet." In addition to Mukhitdinov, Khrushchev and CC Secretary Kozlov also were active in connection with Daud's visit. Demonstrating anew his seemingly abundant store of reserve energy, N. S. Khrushchev was reported attending five separate functions on Apr. 7 alone.

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Little wonder that after Daud's special Soviet IL-18 left Moscow on Apr. 8 Khrushchev evidently retired to a place near Sochi, receiving Walter Lippman April 10. Two days later, he reportedly spoke on the telephone with Soviet spaceman Gagarin and accepted the latter's thanks and personal tribute. He also may have received a Chinese official trade delegation which was reported as having arrived in Sochi April 11 (Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta, Apr. 12).

Thus far during Khrushchev's short absence from Moscow, a dearth of publicized leadership activity provides no evidence as to which of the leaders are directing party-government affairs in the capital. A.I. Mikoyan, sometimes the stand-by leader in Khrushchev's absence, is at Sochi with his boss--a fact unannounced until publication of the Khrushchev-Gagarin telephone conversation containing Khrushchev's reference to Mikoyan's presence there.

3. Slogans for May Day, 1961. Two slogans, one to greet the coming XXII Congress by building successes for Communism and another appealing for fulfillment of resolutions made at the January Plenum appear as the only completely new slogans on the list for May Day, 1961 (Pravda of April 9). Eulogizing of Soviet scientists as "tamers of the Cosmos" seems more appropriate following the subsequent announcement of the successful return of Soviet astronaut Gagarin. The slogan calling for overtaking the U.S. in per capita production is repeated this year, but interestingly enough (following Khrushchev's recent highlighting of agricultural failures and mismanagement) one of the agricultural slogans this year leaves out an exhortation (included last year) to overtake the U.S.A. in per capita production of "animal produce."

Soviet civil servants are asked to eliminate "bureaucracy and red tape" (last year: to tend to the "needs and inquiries of the workers"); workers of light industry are asked to increase production of shoes and clothes, etc. (last May: "good" clothes and "durable and graceful" shoes). Heavy industry workers are reminded that their work is related not only to the increased welfare of the country but to "strengthening the defensive power" of the U.S.S.R.

4. Orthodox Easter Services. Anti-religious agitation in the press, kept at a high level in the past few months, reached a peak in time for the Russian Orthodox Church Easter, April 8. Such polemics had little noticeable effect on the massive turnout for midnight services. Only his special status as a diplomat or foreigner got many a western observer into the churches which were jammed full with large overflow.

Large numbers of non-believing komсомол age youth wandered through huge throngs gathered on the outside of churches creating minor disturbances occasionally but no gross excesses such as those noted last Easter were witnessed.

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5. Kennedy-Macmillan Meeting. There was little Soviet press comment on the meeting, though quotations from the US and British press were used to suggest British exasperation at their alleged treatment as a junior partner in the alliance. Macmillan's MIT speech received as heavy coverage as the meeting between the two leaders. The press welcomed his supposed confirmation of the Soviet thesis about the change in the correlation of world forces, but stated that he was abandoning British national interests in recommending greater Western unity.

The President's speech to the NATO military committee was briefly summarized in Red Star (April 12) but so far has received no extended comment. The summary included the President's statement to the effect that the US is prepared to see to it that its armed forces are under continuous responsible command at all levels.

6. Laos. The decision by Souvanna Phouma to visit the US was reported briefly in Izvestiya April 8. No other reference has been made in the past week to Souvanna's visit to the US or his impending arrival in the Soviet Union. With the exception of one battle report appearing April 8, the Soviet press has failed to refer to on-the-spot developments in the Laos situation. On April 8 most Soviet papers reported a RLG offensive move at Mounk Kassi, charging US instructors supervised the parachute jump and US Marine Corps helicopters from a base in Udon, Thailand, were also used.

7. Soviet-Chicom Relations. The results of the protracted Soviet-CPR trade talks, as revealed in the published communique, seemed meager from a Chicom point of view. Soviet agreement to postponement of Chicom payment of the 1960 bilateral trade deficit, and the loan of 500,000 tons of sugar, could hardly be considered generous in view of the admitted magnitude of Chicom economic reverses. The arrival in Moscow April 8 of another Chicom delegation headed by the deputy Gosplan chief underlined the need for further negotiations on economic relations.

The speech made at the April 7 communique signing ceremony by the chief Chicom representative, Yeh Chi-chuang, was in sharp contrast to Patolichev's generalities. Yeh pointedly remarked that the CPR would undeviatingly go forward on the path indicated by the three red banners--the general line, the great leap, and the people's communes. Yeh's remarks emphasizing the correctness of CPR policy suggested the underlying ideological strains in Moscow-Peiping ties.

8. Indian CP Congress. Suslov's and Ghosh's speeches at the Indian CP Congress seemed to attest primarily to Soviet concern to maintain good relations with the Indian Government. Suslov's extremely bland address carefully avoided sensitive topics (Kerala and Indian-Chicom problems) and anything that might be construed as encouragement to greater militancy on the part of the CPI. Ghosh took his cue from Suslov. His criticism of

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sectarian elements in the party and of the 1951 party program characterization of the Indian government as pro-imperialist, as well as his call for a national-democratic front including the national bourgeoisie, pointed to a desire to reduce the CPI's isolation in Indian political life and seek points of contact with the Congress Party. The caution and lack of militancy observable in both Suslov and Ghosh, however understandable from the point of view of Soviet-Indian state relations, might be expected to cause misgivings in some quarters, notably Peiping.

9. Nuclear Test Talks. The Soviet press continued its critical coverage of Western proposals of the Geneva talks, but for the first time introduced a modicum of positive comment, suggesting readiness to take full credit for any progress which might be made. On April 11 the Soviet press reported that the USSR delegation had approved "the new proposals by the US and UK on the creation of a control commission composed of four Western, four Soviet bloc, and three neutral representatives." Prior to this announcement, Izvestiya (April 10), in the most detailed analysis of the talks to appear to date, included in a basically critical article a positive evaluation of what was described as Western agreement to the principle of forming the control commission on a basis of parity between the three blocs, and the US proposal on the question of guaranteeing control over small-scale underground explosions.

10. Algeria. A relatively moderately-worded Izvestiya "Observer" (April 7) article reviewed developments on Algerian-French negotiations but was not very revealing as regards current Soviet thinking. Izvestiya claimed that the planned talks were scheduled only as a result of fear by French monopolists and international imperialism that their raw material sources in Algeria would be cut off by military defeat. It warned against assuming that the restoration of peace in Algeria is imminent, pointing to acts of terror by French ultras and French conditions regarding the Sahara and military bases as barriers to successful negotiations.

11. Cuba. Until space developments crowded all other news out of the Soviet press, charges that the US was attempting to overthrow the Castro revolution had been resumed. Particular attention was devoted to criticism of the Department's White Book on Cuba, a Cuban Ministry of Defense charge that counter-revolutionaries are receiving support from Guantanamo, and activities by Cuban immigrant leaders in the US.

12. Congo. Reports from Soviet correspondents in Stanleyville were prominent in the Soviet press during the week, with emphasis on the degree of popular support and confidence said to be given to the Gizenga government. Trud (April 9) carried an interview with Gizenga in which he expressed gratitude for Soviet moral and political support: "Whenever the fate of Congo is at stake, the firm voice of the Soviet Union is always heard first among many friendly countries." However, Gizenga was also quoted as saying that Congo was not pro-Communist.

Other press accounts reported (for the first time) the presence of Indian troops in Congo.

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13. Visits. Afghan Prime Minister Daud departed on April 8 following a four-day visit in Moscow. Throughout his visit, he received top-level treatment and publicity in keeping both with his official position and the Soviet position in the current Afghan-Pakistan dispute over Push-tunistan.

Burmese Commander-in-chief Ne Win, after several days in Moscow, has been touring provincial centers, including visits to various military academies and training facilities in Leningrad, the Caucasus, and Black Sea areas.

U. S. Correspondent Walter Lippman was granted an interview by Khrushchev in Sochi on April 10.

GDR economic planner Bruno Leuschner returned to Moscow on April 11 at the head of an economic delegation. This marked the fourth visit by Leuschner in the past five months.

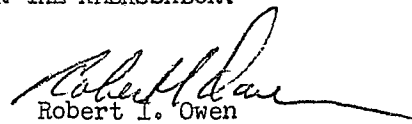
The Libyan parliamentary delegation which has been touring the Soviet Union for several weeks was received by Khrushchev April 7.

Cuban Minister of Education A. Hart Davalos led a delegation of Cuban educators which arrived April 9, visiting on the invitation of the RSFSR Ministry of Education. Meanwhile the Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade, Torras, continued talks with Soviet trade officials.

Chairman of the Mongolian Council of Ministers & CP First Secretary Tsedenbal signed a trade agreement with the USSR on April 13, and was a prominent guest of honor at the celebrations welcoming astronaut Gagarin to Moscow April 14.

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR:



Robert I. Owen
First Secretary of Embassy

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